(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the report;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the report is not only lopsided but also totally ignorant of interests of the working class; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) AITUC, in their letter dated 3.10.2002 have opposed the recommendations of Second National Commission on Labour on the plea that these are anti-labour and endangering the capacity of collective bargaining of the workers. They are critical to the recommendations of National Commission on Labour towards downsizing, lay-off, retrenchment, closures, casualisation, outsourcingh of workers, policy of hire and fire etc.

(c) and (d) The National Commission on Labour in its report has covered various facets of labour *viz.* review of laws, social security, women & child labour, skill development, labour administration, unorganized sector and other matters keeping in view the need to enhance economic efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of industry with due regard to safeguarding the industry of working population.

(e) Does not arise.

Payment of Minimum Wages

998. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be plesed to state:

(a) whether Government have recently written to all the State to ensure that no worker is paid lesser than Rs. 50 per day;

(b) if so, whether Government are monitoring its implementation; and

(c) the wage required to be paid to the workers under the Minimum Wages Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Government has recently increased national floor level wage to Rs. 50/- per day *w.e.f.* 1.9.2002. All the State Governments have been requested in October 2002 to ensure that in none of the scheduled employments the minimum wage is below the national floor level wage.

(b) The State Governments furnish information relating to fixation/ revision of minimum wages regularly. The State Governments are advised to revise the minimum wages whenever the wages are found to be less than the national floor level wage.

(c) Since the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, does not stipulate any standard methodology for fixation of minimum wages, the norms recommended by the Indian Labour Conference, 1957 and subsequent Judicial pronouncement are taken into account while fixing the minimum wages. The norms include requirements of food, clothing, rent, fuel, lighting, children's education, recreation, marriage, old age etc. Once the minimum wage is fixed, the employers are bound under the provisions of the Act to pay to the workers the minimum wage so fixed.

Setting up of Efficiency Development Fund for unorganised sector

†999. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up an Efficiency Development Fund (EDF) to increase efficiency of the employees of the unorganized sector; and

(b) if so, the provisions made to set up the development fund by Government alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration of Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.